

BP SPIRIT

Electronic News for the 21st Century South African Scout
May 2001

That's the Spirit guys!

Well, If BP had been watching my e-mail fill up with articles and notes of encouragement since our first edition went out, he would have been so proud of you all. I have made new friends and caught up on old chums, it's been wonderful.

Those of you who were kind enough to send in photographs will notice that they are not in. I know I said we would publish photos but on second thought we decided not to. This newsletter is designed to be printed out and photocopied and we all know how photocopiers treat photos. You end up with dark gray splodgy pictures, you can't identify anyone, especially in a group and they look awful. I will see if our webmaster has any ideas that would enable us to put photos onto the web edition. Photos also take up a lot of space and downloading sometimes takes forever.

Also please remember to make sure that there are no viruses attached to your e-mails please, McAfee's was working overtime I'm afraid. Lots of different items this time; if yours isn't in, it arrived too late but I will have kept it and as long as there is no date limitation I will put it in next time. Enjoy reading.



What do Sand River Scouts do at night?

The moon hadn't risen yet when a group of Boy and Girl Scouts, accompanied by two adult Scouters, were dropped off in the Bundu fairly close to the Sand River. They made their way along a rough track through the bush until they got close to the river, then down to the water's edge. Whilst four of the senior Scouts went to check the depth of the water at a possible crossing a few hundred metres up stream the rest of the group waited, chatting quietly. One of the Scouters explained how to find one's direction of travel using the stars; Orion and the Southern



Cross were both clearly visible in a clear star-filled sky. Soon the senior Scouts who had gone to check the crossing came back. The river was low and it was easy to cross. Rucksacks were lifted into place and with the Senior Patrol Leader in the lead the group made its way through the dense bush on the riverbank to the river crossing. The Scouts crossed the river by stepping from one rock to another. In the past when there has been more water in the river, they have had to wade knee deep at the same spot. Across the river the Patrol Leader led the way through the bush and along winding paths to a camping spot well known to generations



of Scouts. The sky was clear and studded with stars. After preparing a night-cap of cocoa and rusks everyone turned in for the night. No one bothered to put up a tent or bivvy – it was so nice to lie in a cosy sleeping bag and see the stars through the branches of the surrounding trees. After an uneventful night's sleep everyone made breakfast then packed up. After a short hike they arrived at a spot where transport soon arrived to load them up and drop them off at home.

Going to Canada?

The Belleville Scout-Guide Museum was started in 1976 when Ron Moon, a private collector, donated his collection to the Belleville District Council. Ron stayed as the museum curator for the first two years. The museum at that time was located in the upstairs of St. Thomas Parish Hall in downtown Belleville and consisted of one small room and several hallway displays. In 1987, the church decided to sell the hall and the museum was relocated to the Teachers' Ed Building at Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf. In the 14 years at the school the museum has expanded to cover 1500 square feet with over 20,000 items. There is an extensive library with 4,000 books and magazines. The main museum tells the story of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell with items on his military career, Mafeking items, early Scout and Guiding items, uniforms and many more artifacts. The long central hallway is divided into three, areas,

"Jamboree Way", "Badge Alley" and local Scouting and Guiding history. "Jamboree Way" has an extensive collection of National and World Jamboree items. "Badge Alley" houses the large collection of badges owned and on loan from the assistant curator, Paul Deryaw. Tours are given by request as there are no permanent staff at the museum. For more information or to book tours please contact David Bentley, curator, at (USA) 1-613-968-7605 or Paul Deryaw at 1-613-966-2740.

SA Scouting joins the Award World

The 7th International Award Forum, hosted by South Africa's President's Award, was held in Cape Town in November last year. Representatives from the more than 100 participating countries gathered to exchange ideas and discuss policy relative to their individual programmes which follow the principles and philosophy of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award which was started in the UK in 1956. Scouting's International body was there, represented by Mr Garnet de la Hunt. The Award – a voluntary programme of leisure-time activities which challenges youth in personal and community development – is open to all aged between 14 and 25. The Award Programme started in South Africa in the 1980s and became known as the President's Award in 1994 when Mr Nelson Mandela accepted the position as patron. In the past, Scouting SA and the President's Award have enjoyed informal relations at the local level. With Garnet de la Hunt's encouragement, subsequent meetings between Mr John Hunneyball and Mr Craig Andrew and Mrs Vannessa Crous of the President's Award were held to discuss a national partnership between the two youth programmes. "There are many synergies on offer from such a partnership", says President's Award MD Mrs Crous. "We have a holistic youth development programme which has been tried and tested internationally, and Scouting SA has the depth of infrastructure in communities across SA". She adds that many of the activities which fall within the focus of the President's Award's Bronze, Silver and Gold programmes are already part of the Scouting programme. "At each level, skills, community service, physical recreation and an expedition need to be tackled with a range of activities to choose from. Since the President's Award is essentially a programme and open to

everyone, it can be taken up by other organisations such as Scouting without any difficulty. In fact this is a partnership which works very well in many countries, the UK and Australia being perhaps the best examples" she said.

The President's Award has about 10 000 young people enrolled each year. The programme is implemented on a Joint Venture basis whereby licenses are given, after training and selection criteria are met, to operators. Participants are required to pay a R100 enrolment fee which enables operators to recoup their expenses and make a small income. This is ideal for school teachers and others who already work with youth and have access to resources through established structures. For those working with young people through the Scouting movement, there are plenty of opportunities to expand into the President's Award by taking out a licence.

For more information, please contact the President's Award Administrator, Irene Marais, at the National Office in Grahamstown - phone (046) 622 7273; email: IM@presidentsaward.co.za, or by writing to PO Box 33 Grahamstown 6140. Visit our website at <http://www.presidentsaward.co.za> to find out more about the programme.

The International Badgers Club

The International Badgers Club is a club for any person in the Scout or Guide movement who is keen to collect badges as a hobby. The Club is based in England and has about 1000 members world wide. Australia, New Zealand, Canada and USA have their own clubs, but the members to these are often members of the main club in England.

The Club produces a magazine 6 times a year and is sent to all members. In it all new badges are listed, members can advertise for badges they would like and major Scouting events are also mentioned. Members also get a catalogue in which all known District and Area badges worldwide are listed (similar to a stamp catalogue).

Most badges are swapped by post amongst members, though in the UK members have swap meetings. There is a joining fee as well as an annual subscription.

I have approximately 3500 District & Area badges, from Australia, New Zealand, Africa, United Kingdom and Canada. I am always on the lookout for badges, new, old or existing to add to my collection or to swap. I do not collect

camp or fun badges, unless it is for an event that I attend and these badges are not listed in the Clubs catalogue. Only District, Area and Jamboree Scout badges are listed as well as the equivalent Guide badges.

If any one would like further information please e-mail me on: chidding@global.co.za or write to me at P.O. Box 722, Hilton, 3245. KwaZulu Natal.

11th Africa regional Scout conference & 2nd regional youth forum

The Africa Regional Conference and Youth Forum will be held in LIBREVILLE, Gabon from 3 to 7 September 2001. This conference is the decision making body for the Africa Region and all 34 member countries of the Africa Region are required to send representatives. In addition to the official delegation Observers may also attend but at their own cost. This is an invitation to uniform and lay adult leaders to join the South African delegation as OBSERVERS for this important conference. The Conference fee is US \$100 for delegates and observers, US \$50 for participation in the Youth Forum, US \$75 for participation in the Spouses Programme. In addition you have to cover the cost of your accommodation and travel to Gabon - airfares ex Johannesburg about R4500 with a 6 day minimum stay. Anyone interested in being an observer at either the Conference or the Youth Forum should contact Winston Adams at SAHQ for more information

Compuscout

Last time in this column we had a few links to international Scouting web sites, and to ScoutWeb South Africa, the home of the South African Scout Association. This time we'll look at some other South African Scouting web sites. Three Areas have their own web sites: **Cape Western** is the most comprehensive, with lots of resources and most Area publications and announcements going out via the web and email as well as in print. They also have a good page for information on the Scout Programme. <http://cw.scouting.org.za> Gauteng Area's site has a useful collection of application forms and an excellent section of hiking information for the Drakensberg. The site hasn't been updated for a while, but work is restarting. <http://gauteng.scouting.org.za>

SANJAMB and Gauteng's Kon Tiki have separate sites: <http://sanjamb.scouting.org.za>, <http://kontiki.scouting.org.za>

Mpumalanga Area recently started redeveloping their site, which is looking good, but there are still quite a lot of "under construction" links.

<http://www.scouting.org.za/mpumalanga>

Cape Eastern doesn't yet have its own site, but their excellent monthly magazine The OUTTRAY is available online at

<http://www.scouting.org.za/outtray>

In the **Northwest Province**, the Mafikeng SCENE has an excellent site:

<http://scene.scouting.org.za>.

Northern Transvaal Area is planning their web site, but KwaZulu-Natal and Central Areas haven't set up sites yet. We hope to see something from them soon!

About 40 Scout Groups have their own web sites. Just like Group magazines, every Cub or Scout wants to see their own name, photo or contribution on the site, and so do their parents. On the internet, for reasons of child safety, you should never include full names or email addresses of the Scouts and Cubs - first names are enough - but you should have contact information for the Scouters. Finally, don't be over ambitious when you set up the site: regular updates usually get less regular as time goes by!

For the list of Scout Group web pages, go to <http://www.scouting.org.za/groups.html>, and to find out how to get your Group on the web, go to <http://www.scouting.org.za/webfaq.html>

Report on 24-Hour Cycle enduro

On the morning of 3rd March 2001, 24 eager teams, of scouts of four scouts each, gathered at the Queensburgh BMX track for the 24 hour cycle enduro race that was scheduled to start at 14H00. The time trials to establish who was the quickest team resulted in a dead heat between team 1 from Cowies Hill and team 13 from Bellhill. The event was decided by a sprint off with the two riders racing against each other on the track after the completion of the enduro. The eventual winner of the fastest rider trophy was Byron Peterson of Bellhill Scout Group. The race proved to be a hotly contested affair early on with teams jostling for positions. As the afternoon wore on into the evening the event started to take shape with certain teams firmly establishing themselves at the top of the leader board. This trend continued on through the night and when the sun rose early on the Sunday

morning, the race was not on for who was going to win, but rather for the minor placings. A humorous note from the medical staff on duty during the competition, even though the scouts entertained the spectators with numerous tumbles and spills, the most serious injury incurred by any scout riding in the race was multiple abrasions (grazes) and stiff & sore legs and gluteus maximus's (bottoms). The most serious injury treated over the weekend was a broken ankle to one of the organisers. We wish Kirsten Robinson a speedy recovery. What was pleasing to note was the numerous occasions when the good spirit of Scouting prevailed during the event. Even during the hours of darkness when a rider went down, another would stop to see whether they were okay or needed assistance. Another encouraging matter was the number of parents, scouters and non-participating scouts that camped over in order to provide encouragement to those scouts taking part.

Taps

Isn't it amazing how, when there are two or more Scouting people together they will talk for hours trying to sort out the problems of Scouting all over the world. Thus I thought that I would be inundated with items for taps, the LAST WORD. So I guess it is up to me to finish off again. A couple of weeks ago I was sitting around unable to do much because I had hurt my foot. I decided to get together all the loose change in the house in various pots and jars and count it, (I cannot believe I was that bored) anyway the final tally was R64.77. Nothing higher than 20c mind you.

Now at BP's last World Jamboree he was presented with a Rolls Royce, the money for this car had been collected by Scouts all over the world, each one asked to donate a penny or the lowest denomination coin in their country. I'm quite certain Jaques Morreillon would be delighted with a new Rolls but it wouldn't be appropriate these days – however, that R64 got me thinking. What if a group collected all the spare change they could for a year and donated it to a local charity. They could ask all their relatives for small change, most of us put those little coins in post and jars, they could even advertise in the local paper for small change donations from the town. Imagine how much money could be collected by a group in one year. It could be taken to district level with all the small change collected being donated to a district charity. What about an area collection? Multiply

my R64 by the number of people in an area, quite a mind boggling figure. Whilst we are at it, how about making it a National collection or even – dare I say it- a worldwide collection just as they did for BP's Rolls. The money that could be collected by Scouts on a worldwide scale would benefit a worldwide charity such as Save the Children or Save the Rain Forests in a spectacular way. And what would it cost us, just the small change we don't want in our purses and pockets anyway.

It all starts with a small amount of R64, how much small change do you have lying around in your home? Now I've got you lot thinking let me know if you decide to do something with it.

Well that's it, the second edition of BP Spirit. Once again thanks to everyone who sent in articles or wrote to say they enjoyed the first edition.

I am going overseas to visit relatives for a month in the middle of May so you have a bit more time to send stuff in for the next edition.

The next Deadline
date is 25 June.
HAPPY SCOUTING!

